

Minutes  
Command Trustee Council Meeting  
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park,  
Felton, CA  
3 October 2002

1. Attendees

Charlene Hall	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Primary Representative
Nora Rojek	Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game - Alternate
Mark Meier	Calif. State Lands Commission (CSLC) - Primary Representative
Sarah York	Calif. State Lands Commission - Alternate
Joanne Kerbavaz	Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) - Alternate
Jennifer Boyce	NOAA - Alternate
Steve Hampton	Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game - Primary
Victoria Seidman	Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation
2. Agenda. The agenda (attached) was reviewed and approved.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting. The July 29, 2002, meeting minutes were approved.
4. Financial Update. As of October 1, 2002, the restoration account balance is \$4,269,032.82. \$120,000 has been allocated (pursuant to Trustee Resolution 02-1) to Trustee Council Agencies for restoration planning activities. Council voted to place \$4,000,000 into a six month investment account. USFWS and NOAA have requested additional funding to conduct restoration planning and they will distribute Trustee Council Resolution for Council review via email.
5. Administrative Record. An updated administrative record index was distributed and copies of records, to be included in the administrative record files, will be sent to NOAA.

***Restoration Planning***

6. Summary of Marbled Murrelet Meeting. Council discussed recent marbled murrelet restoration planning meeting. A written summary of today's marbled murrelet restoration planning meeting will be prepared by Steve Hampton (final attached).
7. Preparations for Multi-Council Coordination Meeting. Council discussed goals and structure of tomorrow's restoration planning meeting (final meeting notes attached).
8. Status of Project Proposals. Proponents submitted oral comments on marbled murrelet acquisition and conservation easements.
9. Restoration Planning. A few agencies still plan to submit agency-proposed project ideas to the Command Council. Council agreed to begin reviewing human use and shoreline restoration projects at the next meeting.
10. Next Meeting. The October 22, 2002 council meeting has been rescheduled for November 25, 2002, and will be held at the Yolo Basin Foundation Wildlife Area in Davis, from 10 am to 5 pm.

11. Review of Tasks

	<i>Person</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
1	Hampton	Prepare a written summary of the Marbled Murrelet Restoration Planning meeting.	ASAP
2.	Hall	Summarize multi-council restoration coordination meeting.	ASAP
3.	All	Review; a) Marbled murrelet meeting, b) Trustee council meeting and c) Multi-council restoration planning meeting minutes and approve.	ASAP

**(Attachment A)**  
**Command Trustee Council Meeting**  
**Marbled Murrelet Meeting**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**October 3, 2002**  
**Henry Cowell Redwoods S.P.**

**Participants:**

Steve Hampton	California Department of Fish and Game, Oil Spill Prevention and Response (CDFG-OSPR)
Nora Rojek	CDFG
Julie Yamamoto	CDFG-OSPR
Esther Burkett	CDFG
Stacy Martinelli	CDFG-Region 3
Mark Meier	California State Lands Commission (CSLC)
Joanne Kerbavaz	California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)
Victoria Seidman	CDPR
Gary Strachan	CDPR
Charlene Hall	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Sacramento Field Office
Tom Suchanek	USFWS, Sacramento Field Office
Debora Kirkland	USFWS, Ventura Field Office
Jennifer Boyce	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Steve Beissenger	University of California Berkeley (UCB)
Zach Peery	UCB
Tom Hamar	Hamar Environmental
Rick Golightly	Humboldt State University (HSU)
Jenn Shulzitski	U.S. Geologic Survey, Biological Resources Division (USGS-BRD)
Laird Henkel	HT Harvey and Associates
Steve Singer	
David Suddjian	David Suddjian Biological Consulting

Agenda Attached

**Review of Santa Cruz Mountain Murrelet Status**

- Zach Peery - Low juvenile ratio (0.02) (most likely due to birds failing to nest and/or nest failure). [Note: with no immigration, this would imply complete extirpation of the Santa Cruz population within 30 years—Steve Hampton]
- Of radio-tagged adult birds, 12% to 54% attempt nesting, none have ever succeeded. (In year that only 12% nested, foraging was higher, suggesting limited prey.) (In British Columbia radio-tag study, 65% attempted nesting; half succeeded).
  - Has found 7 nests – all failed (2 may be due to corvids; 1 raptor; 1 mammal; 1 nonviable; 1 abandoned; 1 died).
    - At-sea counts, 1999-2002; estimated total population = 500-600 birds each year.
  - At-sea counts suggest a stable population, however with little to no reproduction (juveniles rarely seen), thus the data suggests 38% immigration rate. Possibly suggesting murrelets are immigrating, but not reproducing or surviving.
  - Immigration theory will be tested with genetic marker analysis of existing blood samples.
    - Nice comparison chart of Santa Cruz & BC parameters.
  - Recent population estimates, indicates that habitat is not a limiting factor; or

existing habitat is sub-optimal for successful reproduction.

- Bottom line: reproduction is too low to sustain population

-Large year to year variability in demographic patterns is probably due to food availability and El Nino events.

David Suddjian – Conducts audio-visual inland surveys near breeding areas.

- Marked decline in occupied behavior at Redwood Meadow over last 10 years.
- Formerly the most active site.
- From 2002 corvid surveys he found ravens & jays were 6 to 10 times more abundant at campgrounds (Big Basin, Portola, Butano, Memorial) than in forests. Historical records (pre-1970) show near zero ravens, since 1980, numbers have been increasing exponentially, near campgrounds.
- Also conducted interviews of campers; those interviewed did not have any knowledge of corvid/murrelet issues.
  - Observed 2 ravens predating murrelet chicks at the nest in 2002.
  - Other potential predators: Peregrines, sharp shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk
  - Peregrines have taken adults murrelets on at least 5 occasions.

Steve Singer – Has been conducting murrelet monitoring in Gazos Creek since 1998

- Apex Houston Trustee Council purchased Mountain Camp parcel.
- Only 3 years of data. Number of detections has declined each year: 46, 31, 20.
- May need more funds (after Apex Houston NRDAR) to continue monitoring.
- Benefits of radar surveys: observe more birds than traditional methods, establish flight patterns, if done in all travel corridors / canyons, you could use information for demographic calculations.

Tom Hamar - radar survey work with Singer (see above), also monitoring 20+ birds in Mendocino County locations.

Rick Golightly - Radio-tagged breeding birds in Humboldt Co.

- Several observations of jays carrying off eggs; didn't see this behavior with ravens
  - In 2002, found 21+ nests, most or all failed.
  - believes crows may be more prevalent within forest/away from edges.

Steve Beissenger - discussed Ben Becker's Ph.D. thesis regarding oceanographic changes over last 300 years that may be influencing the birds.

- They like when cold water is upwelling and feed on krill during breeding (except during El Nino).
  - Looked at 100 year-old murrelet skins - those birds seem to have shifted to sardines/anchovy in spring - but do not do so now.
- Believes that birds may not be breeding because of low food availability. Important to recognize that diets affect population level demographics.
- In non-El Nino years murrelets feed lower in the food chain (krill, etc).
- During El Nino years, they feed higher on the food chain.

**Discussion of Murrelet Restoration Options in Santa Cruz Mountains**

- Addressing corvid issue may not address all the factors in murrelet decline, but it is one known factor that we may be able to do something about.

**Corvid Management Project Components Possibilities include:**

- better garbage cans
- other garbage control
- camper education
- moving campgrounds
- lethal control/trapping/removal
- distasteful eggs
- seasonal closures
- squirrel control
- corvid birth control
- land fill management
- garbage can/area control – at residential housing, urban areas and agricultural areas.

**Monitoring**

- continue existing murrelet surveys
- on-water surveys
- telemetry of ravens
- artificial nest (quail eggs) before/after project- (# of days to predation of fake eggs is a good measure of predation pressure  
Projects should be experimental, try various techniques, monitor success, and phased-in based on results. Beissenger recommends we implement multiple types of projects, because we do not really know what is affecting the species at the population level. Suddjian notes approximately one pair of ravens/campground. Esther notes there are roving bands of ravens.

Possible experiment w/4 campgrounds:

1. Close
2. Education and cans
3. Education and cans and corvid removal
4. Do nothing

Other project ideas (unrelated to corvids):

- Acquisition
- Stop pruning of platform branches; a problem at campgrounds.
- Trap and remove peregrine at Butano; this bird has killed many murrelets.
- Trap and remove mammalian predators.
- Murrelet reserves in foraging areas.
- Reduce oil spills

**Command Trustee Council Meeting  
Special Meeting re: Marbled Murrelet Restoration**

**October 3, 2002  
Mountain Parks Foundation Room  
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Felton, CA**

Purpose: The Command Trustee Council is investigating restoration priorities for the Marbled Murrelet in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from the experts the critical needs of this species. Specifically, we hope to gain an understanding of the current status of this species and hear ideas about how to restore them. We encourage the experts to think creatively and not be restrained by potential financial or other feasibility constraints associated with a restoration project. The Council will deal with such constraints later.

*Invited experts: Steve Beissinger, Zach Peery, David Suddjian, Steve Singer, Julie Thayer, Bill Sydeman, Gary Strachan, Luke George, Rick Golightly, Jen Shulziitsky, Harry Carter, Laird Henkel, Tom Hamar, Esther Burkett (italics = confirmed to attend)*

10:00 am	<b>Introductions</b>	
10:15 am	<b>Review of Santa Cruz Mtn MAMU Status</b>	
	at-sea surveys	Steve Beissinger
	telemetry work and breeding success	
	land-based surveys	David Suddjian
	corvid surveys	
	radar surveys	Steve Singer
10:45 am	additional comments	All
11:15 am	<b>Discussion of MAMU Restoration Needs</b>	All
	land acquisition	
	corvid management	
	other	
12:30 pm	<b>Re-cap and Summary of Discussion</b>	All
	What we know	
	What we don't know	
	Prioritization of restoration options	
1:00 pm	<b>end of meeting</b>	

Attachment B  
Minutes  
Multi-Council Coordination Meeting  
In Support of Command Restoration Planning  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bay Model Visitor Center  
4 October 2002

Attendees. Attendance List is attached.

Agenda. Agenda is attached.

Purpose. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- 1) Discuss opportunities for coordinating restoration efforts between councils;
- 2) Record lessons learned from other restoration councils;
- 3) Aid the Command council in the restoration planning process; and
- 4) Identify additional restoration projects for the Command council.

Council Presentations. Representatives from the American Trader, Apex Houston, Cape Mohican and Torch Trustee councils presented case information. Speakers focused on the following points: 1) Opportunities for project collaboration with Command Council and/or additional restoration projects the Command council may consider, 2) Unique examples of lessons learned from their restoration planning and implementation process; and 3) Specific issues/problems encountered that may have significance to Command.

### **Apex Houston**

Important points, lessons learned and recommendations include:

- Restoration projects were decided within the consent decree.
- In deciding who would implement certain restoration projects, they factored in which organization could quickly take on long term restoration projects.
- Recommend using in-house resources to write restoration plans.
- Apex Houston projects:
  - Devil's Slide murre recolonization project
  - Exotic species eradication on small islands
- Produced a management plan for the acquisition project.
- Continuity in representatives is important on councils.
- Public felt council is too focused on common murres.
- Important to involve public in restoration
- Establish measurable project goals
- Good research component important to ensuring success
- Add in miscellaneous component to deal with unforeseen issues
- Projects Command could collaborate, contribute to, or propose:
  - a) Survey of murre colonies
  - b) Data analysis of murre colony pictures
- Devil's Slide Murre Project
  - Important points:
    - Restoration objectives were reached sooner than expected.

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- As part of monitoring the success of the project, they are also monitoring the Point Reyes and Castle Rock / Hurricane colony complexes.
- They are experiencing disturbance issues at many of the colonies--- boating, ravens, and corvids, helicopters, planes.
  
- San Pedro Rock
  - Also doing recolonization at San Pedro Rock, recolonization at this site is taking longer because birds have been gone from San Pedro Rock longer than from Devil's Slide Rock.
  
- Summary of Apex Houston Restoration Projects:
  - MAMU land acquisition
  - Common murre recolonization
  - Exotic species eradication on islands
  - Surveys of colonies

## **American Trader**

Projects were identified in Consent Decree

Conducted pre-project monitoring and information gathering for restoration planning and for future success measurements. International projects possible, but be sure to get clearance.

Projects Command could utilize:

Pelican Roost Atlas for Area.

Monitoring and research is needed

Public education on seabird restoration and conservation benefits

Videos, public education, internal government programs

Lessons learned:

- Use other programmatic management plans.
- Don't forget Migratory Bird Treaty Act permits
- Having the pre-planning/project science/baseline info and NEPA completed was helpful for preventing litigation.
- Use National Fish and Wildlife Federation to facilitate and administrate contracts
- Completed restoration plan in-house and used experts to help with sections
- Produce and hold public annual meetings and reports
- Partners are important
- Recommend conducting long-term financial planning
- Decide up front what moneys will be used for project planning / project associated pre-project surveys.
- Be prepared for Freedom of Information Act requests.

## **Cape Mohican**

Addressed fish issues, spill was in San Francisco Bay and out entrance. \$3.5 million for restoration. Proposed specific projects and specific alternatives and request for proposals had a lot of specificity.

Lessons learned

- Recommend ranking projects as this serves as justification to public.
- The restoration plan outlined projects they didn't do.

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- Do restoration planning and document in-house.
- Leave extra funding for additional environmental compliance and contingency planning.
- Use other existing restoration efforts and programs in effort to reduce CEQA/NEPA requirements and costs.
- Local agency participation important.
- Injury studies need to be written up as reports.
- Don't segregate out agencies to develop specific projects
- Build in overhead and oversight costs into each specific project

### **Projects Command could use:**

Farallon Islands seabird restoration.

### **Torch**

(southern California)

Did scavenging studies with coyotes.

### Lessons Learned

- Can't fix all species, choose one and focus in.
- Difficult to implement boating restrictions.

## **General Comments and Recommendations**

### Improvements:

Trustees are getting better at quantifying injuries and developing restoration plans and projects.

Trustees are conducting restoration planning more efficiently

Our efforts have increased attention to the problem of oil spills.

Trustees are getting better at reducing litigation risk.

Trustees are finding ways to work more collaboratively and efficiently together.

Conduct Area wide restoration planning for oil spills (such as is being done in Louisiana).

Conduct species needs assessment and keep track of and investigate all species affected by spills.

Think widely; don't focus on one species in conducting injury assessment and restoration.

Develop actions which can benefit a species.

Develop species action plans.

Develop and write a regional sea-bird restoration plan.

Maura Naughton, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working on a regional based conservation plan.

Contact joint venture groups for ideas and collaborating on restoration plans and projects.

### **Questions and Issues Identified During Meeting:**

1. What to put into Consent Decrees.
2. Supplemental restoration planning
3. Charging time on restoration councils
4. Ranking of Projects
5. Amount of specificity in Restoration plans
6. RFP's and restoration plans
7. Population level assessment of species

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8. Level of specificity in restoration plans, RFP's and what's benefit and drawbacks to being specific in plans.
9. Why are we missing (and not quantifying) injury to some species and resources?
10. Doing restoration / management activities – which are the responsibility of other groups / agencies.
11. Budget: managing, tracking and accountability
12. Changes to restoration projects and planning
13. Longevity of projects
14. Contributing to monitoring of other cases
15. International restoration projects
16. Connection between research funding and specific nexus to restoration goals
17. Generating public interest / comment
18. Pet project issues
19. Drop out trustees and splitting moneys

### **Issues to Consider in the Future / Lessons learned**

- Restoration of individually small, but cumulatively large impacted species.
- Definition of Restoration.
- Limitations around restoration—monitoring, research, baselines, etc.
- Area wide planning and shared NEPA documentation.
- International projects
- Programmatic planning for types of resources commonly impacted by spills
- Cataloging and recording restoration projects
- Lists of unrestored species / species not considered for injury or restoration.
- How to use interest earned from restoration funds.
- Benefits and drawbacks of restoration projects within a consent decree.
- Establish measurable project goals
- Good research component important to ensuring success
- Add in miscellaneous component to deal with unforeseen issues
- Need to add in feedback from outreach, and monitoring and improve ongoing restoration projects.
- Use other programmatic management plans.
- Don't forget Migratory Bird Treaty Act permits
- Having the pre-planning/project science/baseline info and NEPA completed was helpful for preventing litigation.
- Use NFWF to facilitate and administrate contracts
- Completed restoration plan in-house and used experts to help with sections.
- Produce and hold public annual meetings and reports.
- Partners are important
- Recommend conducting long-term financial planning
- Decide up front what moneys will be used for project planning / project associated pre-project surveys.
- Be prepared for FOIAs.
- Recommend ranking projects as this serves as justification to public.
- The restoration plan outlined projects they didn't do.
- Do restoration planning and document in house.
- Leave extra funding for additional environmental compliance and contingency planning.
- Use existing restoration efforts and programs to reduce CEQA/NEPA requirements and costs.
- Local agency participation important.

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- Injury studies need to be written up as reports.
- Don't segregate out agencies to develop specific projects
- Build in overhead and oversight costs into each specific project
- Can't fix all species, choose one and focus in.
- Difficult to implement boating restrictions.

### **Summary of Projects Command could collaborate, contribute to, or propose:**

- a) Survey of murre colonies
- b) Data analysis of colony pictures
- c) Pelican Roost Atlas for Area.
- d) Monitoring and research is needed
- e) Public education on seabird restoration and conservation benefits
- f) Videos, public education, internal government programs (cost \$60,000+)
- g) Farallon Islands

### **Attendance List**

Chuck McKinley	Department of Interior, Solicitor's Office
Charlene Hall	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dan Welsh	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ed Euber	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Gerry McChesney	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jan Roleto	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Jen Boyce	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Jenni Macal	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Jim Haas	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Joanne Kerbavaz	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Julie Yamamoto	California Department of Fish and Game
Kathy Verue-Slater	California Department of Fish and Game
Mark Meier	California State Lands Commission
Maura Naughton	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Natalie Cosentino-Manning	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Nora Rojek	California Department of Fish and Game
Paul Kelly	California Department of Fish and Game
Roger Helm	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Russ Bellmer	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sarah York	California State Lands Commission
Scott Kathey	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Tom Suchanek	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Natural Resource Restoration Trustee Council Coordination Meeting  
October 4, 2002**

**AGENDA  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Bay Model Visitor Center, Sausalito, CA  
10:00am to 4:30pm**

**Purpose-**

- 1) Lessons learned from other restoration councils
- 2) Opportunities to coordinate restoration efforts between councils
- 3) Aid the Command Council in the restoration planning process

Trustee Councils participating-

American Trader

Apex Houston

Cape Mohican

Torch – Natural Resource Damage Assessment Council

**10:00-10:30**

Welcome/Introductions- Ed Ueber-

**10:30-12:30**

Trustee Council Presentations- Jen Boyce- Facilitator

Each Trustee Council to give brief presentation on their program specifically focused on following points-

- 1) Unique examples of lessons learned from their restoration planning and implementation process
- 2) Brief overview of restoration projects highlighting any opportunities for collaboration with Command Council and/or additional projects the Command Council may consider for restoration
- 3) Highlight any specific issues/problems encountered that may have significance to national or state-wide consistency

**12:30-1:30- Lunch**

**1:30-3:00-** Council Presentations Continued

**3:00-4:00-** Additional Issues to Discuss, including, but not limited to:

- International Projects
- Research Projects
- Monitoring
- Joint Restoration Planning
- Cumulative Impacts to Affected Species in California

**4:00-4:30-** Discussion, Actions Items and Conclusions- Jen Boyce

**Agenda**  
**Command Trustee Council**  
**Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Felton, CA**  
**3 October, 2002, 1 – 4 pm**

**Administrative Discussions**

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 1. | Review Agenda                                | All  |
| 2. | Approve Minutes of Last Meeting              | All  |
| 3. | Financial Update<br>USFWS Allocation Request | Hall |
| 4. | Administrative Record Update                 | Hall |

**Restoration Planning**

- |    |                                     |     |
|----|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 5. | Summary of Marbled Murrelet Meeting | All |
| 6. | Next meeting                        | All |